

## Message Text

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INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BUCHAREST 4848

DEPT PASS AGRICULTURE FOR GRAIN AND FEED DIVISION, FAS

BELGRADE FOR AGRICULTURE ATTACHE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAGR, RO

SUBJECT: ROMANIAN GRAIN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, 1975/76

1. MEETING HELD WITH ROMANIANS BY VISITING USDA SPECIALIST (K.L. MURRAY OF FAS) HAVE ESTABLISHED THAT ROMANIA WILL REQUIRE SIZEABLE QUANTITY OF GRAIN IMPORTS IN 1975/76. YIELDS IN BOTH WHEAT AND CORN HAVE BEEN REDUCED BY A COMBINATION OF WET WEATHER IN THE EARLY GROWING SEASON AND DROUGHT IN SECOND PART OF THE SUMMER.

2. THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DEPUTY MINISTER ION STANCIU) WOULD NOT SPECIFY IMPORT NEEDS FOR WHEAT BUT ESTIMATED THIS YEAR'S CROP AT 4.8 MILLION TO 5.0 MILLION MT, VERY CLOSE TO LAST YEAR'S FIGURE. "AGRO-EXPORT" (DIRECTOR-GENERAL TRITA FANITA) SAID THAT SOME IMPORTS WOULD BE NEEDED DURING 1975/76 BUT WAS NOT ABLE TO SPEAK OF AMOUNTS.

3. THE CORN SUPPLY SITUATION IS UNDOUBTEDLY MORE SERIOUS. STANCIU SAID THAT THE CORN CROP WOULD BE AT ABOUT LAST YEAR'S LEVEL OF 7.2 MILLION MT. STANCIU DECLINED TO GIVE A FIGURE FOR CORN IMPORT REQUIREMENTS, SAYING TOO MUCH OF THE HARVEST REMAINED TO BE COMPLETED. FANITA, ON THE OTHER HAND, AFTER SOME PRODDING SAID THAT WITH LUCK CORN IMPORTS COULD BE KEPT DOWN TO THE 1974 EXPERIENCE  
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(700,000 MT); HE GAVE AS HIS PERSONAL OPINION HOWEVER THAT

1 MILLION MT IN CORN IMPORTS WAS MORE LIKELY.

4. COMMENT: STANCIU'S ESTIMATE OF DOMESTIC WHEAT PRODUCTION FORETELLS A SECOND CONSECUTIVE DROP IN ANNUAL PRODUCTION (THE THREE-YEAR AVERAGE FOR 1971-73 WAS 5.7 MILLION MT).

A 1975 CROP OF 5.0 MILLION MT WOULD IMPLY IMPORTS DURING 1975/76 OF 500,000 MT. CORN PRODUCTION OF 7.2 MILLION MT AS AGAINST THE THREE-YEAR 1971-73 AVERAGE OF 8.3 MILLION MT WOULD LEND SUPPORT TO FANITA'S PREDICTION OF 1 MILLION MT IMPORT NEED. THE ROMANIANS EXPECT TO COVER ALL THEIR CORN NEEDS ST L E U.S., IT WAS LEARNED.

BARNES

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## Message Attributes

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